

elevate az

NATIONAL BANK OF ARIZONA®

NATIONAL TREASURES

Arizona institutions offer a rich tapestry of history and culture

BEACON OF PROGRESS

CASA GRANDE EMERGES AS ONE OF THE SOUTHWEST'S NEWLY THRIVING SMALL CITIES

PIONEERING THE FUTURE

BIOSCIENCE BOOM OFFERS CRITICAL IMPETUS FOR THE STATE'S ECONOMIC GROWTH

FALL 2024



STORY **BRUCE FARR**

PHOTOGRAPHY **MARK LIPCZYNSKI**

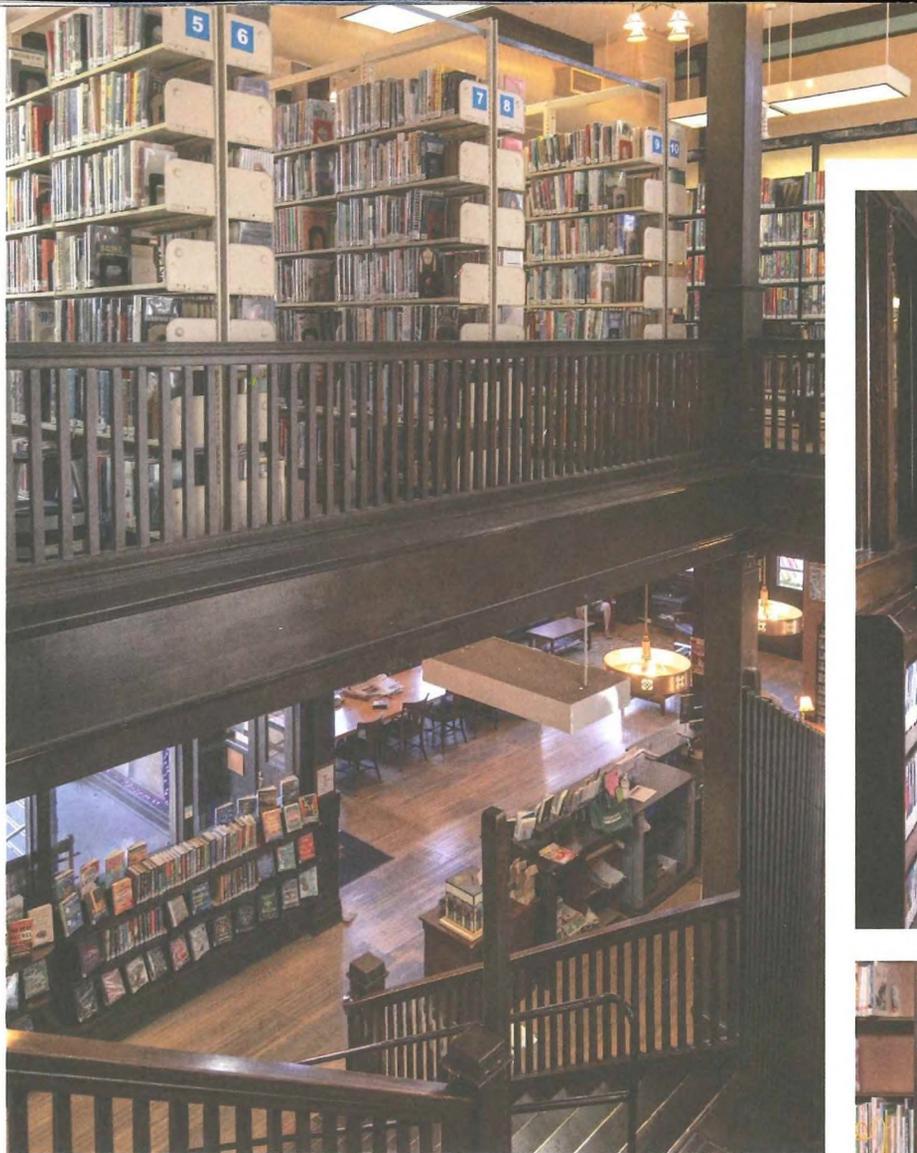
NATIONAL TREASURES

From Flagstaff to Bisbee, Arizona is home to some of the most distinguished museums and libraries in the country. Three of our community institutions have received the **National Medal for Museum and Library Sciences**, the highest honor in the industry and an indicator of organizations showcasing Arizona life both past and present.

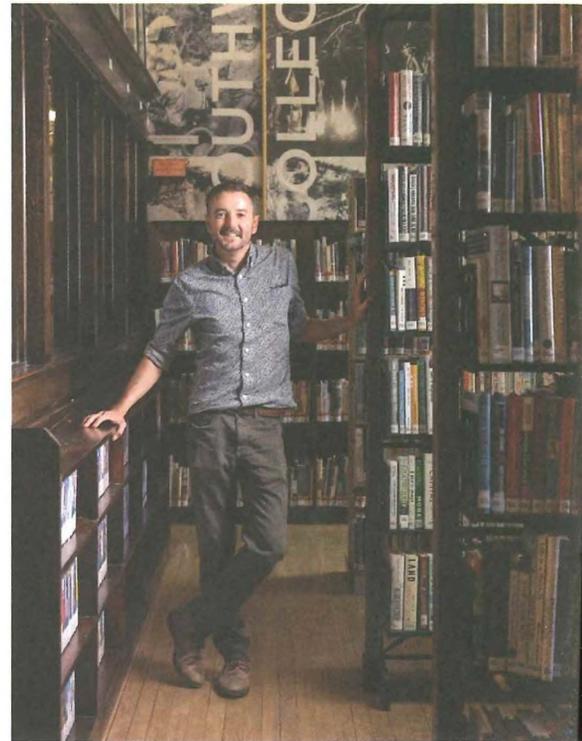
Given to facilities of all sizes, the medal recognizes institutions for the significant impacts and contributions they make to their communities.

Whether you're a local or from out of state, Arizona's medal winners are a trio of treasures worthy of a visit.





▼ Jason Macoviak, manager,
Copper Queen Library



COPPER QUEEN LIBRARY

BISBEE

On the southern side of the state, the Copper Queen Library sits near the border in Bisbee. Founded in 1882 with a collection of 400 books, the intent was to bring some civility to the Wild West mining town. Today, its “Library of Things” lends everything from tools, seeds and sports equipment, to bird-watching kits and metal detectors. It’s a reminder that libraries aren’t limited to books.

Library manager Jason Macoviak explains that what started as a joke to check out anything they could put a bar code on turned into a mindset that’s led to a diverse collection created around the needs of the community. Macoviak says items are considered for a number of reasons with a focus on health and wellness, economics and ecology, but also fun.

“We’ve always got this lens of health and wellness, no matter what we’re looking at. And when someone sees that, ‘Oh, you can check out a metal detector,’ that’s fun. Yes, it is fun. But it’s also getting families outside, doing things together and doing something physically active,” he explains.

Many of the lending resources are often complemented by educational and cultural programming that are based on the interests of Bisbee residents, like seed-harvesting classes, musical performances and artist workshops.

While many of the Library of Things are geared toward residents, there is plenty for out-of-town visitors to enjoy. Macoviak says the building is filled with historic photos and books that offer a perspective of Western life in the early 1900s. There’s also a children’s space filled with arts and crafts that attracts all ages.

The Copper Queen Library was one of two small libraries awarded the National Medal in 2024. Macoviak says it’s an important distinction for the community.

“I just think that this kind of attention, especially for small and rural libraries, it shows that we’re not just surviving in our little towns. It shows that we’re thriving,” he says. “Small libraries, too, are connecting with their communities and really making a difference.” ★